

SHELDON NORTON AND EARL MELVILLE PECK

The originator of the idea of Pioneer Day was Sheldon Norton. This we learn (1) from the newspaper article, "CLINTON CENTER'S PIONEER DAY," that was published in The Wayne Independent on September 9, 1922, about the celebration that took place on September 4, 1922. The fifth paragraph of that newspaper account reads as follows:

Resolutions were passed that expressions of regret be sent to Rev. James Rainey, a former loved and respected pastor, Sheldon Norton, the originator of "Old Home Day" and to Mrs. Laura Loomis, expressing our sorrow that they were unable to be present, and tendering our good wishes for the future; also to Rev. George S. Wendell, with our sympathy in the trials they are enduring in the severe illness of their daughter.

and (2) from the newspaper article, "Pioneer Day At Clinton Center," that was published in The Wayne Independent in September 1935 about the Pioneer Day celebration held that year. The first three paragraphs of that newspaper account read as follows:

Twenty years ago [1915] through the instrumentality of Sheldon Norton and E. M. Peck of Carbondale, a conglomerate rock weighing about six tons was placed in the cemetery at Clinton Center and on that huge stone is a bronze tablet listing the names of the early settlers as well as the early members and pastors of the Clinton Center church.